



Hawk Talk

The Voice of the Omahawks RC Club, Vol. 72, Issue 12

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Club's President's Message for December 2023

Hawk Talk

Camaraderie is a feeling of trust and friendship among a group of people who have usually known each other for a long time or gone through some kind of experience together. It can also be described as a spirit of friendly good-fellowship.

... That's the Google search's definition and is likely my favorite attribute of the Omahawks RC Club. As I write this last piece during my final month as president, I simply want to thank everyone who has continued to keep our great club friendly and fun! Continue to support the upcoming leadership, respect and protect our great flying site, and continue to experience the many benefits of being a member of the Omahawks RC Club! I look forward to flying and friendship with my fellow comrades in 2024 and beyond!

Luke Hughes
402-995-9275

Allen (Bud) Mitchell (1935 - 2023)

RIP Old Friend

Article by Tim Peters and Pictures by Dick Behrens

Bud Mitchell had been a model airplane enthusiast all his life.



**Left to Right, Dick B, Bud M and Ron P
Attend an old Timer Event**

He began the hobby at a young age, building and flying rubber and nitro free-flight planes. Bud began using radio control during its early days, having used 'galloping-ghost', reed, and analog-proportional radios.

Hawk Talk

He was a long-standing member of the Omahawks and Western Flyers Radio Control Airplane clubs.

He enjoyed participating in many events, flying “cross country”, flying pontoon-equipped planes from Standing Bear Lake, as well as “Old Timers”, and indoor models.

More than anything, Bud enjoyed spending time with friends; he was a founding member of the “Morning Flyers” group and chaired the Omahawks weekly “Morning Breakfast” at Hy-Vee on Tuesday Mornings.



As he described it, “I have built more, flown more and crashed more airplanes than anyone else”.

Your flying friends will miss you, Bud!

Author's note: I considered Bud my friend, he was rough around the edges but had a heart of gold! He kept the Breakfast Club laughing most days and was greatly missed when he didn't attend.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/omaha/name/allen-mitchell-obituary?id=53653035>



One of Bud's Beautiful Old Timer's, with the legend

Hawk Talk



Hawk Talk



Bud flying off the Lake on a Warm Saturday in 2023

Happy Birthday to Dick Behrens



Happy 92nd Birthday Dick!!

If you see Dick around wish him many happy returns, Dick is the Omahawks unofficial Historian! He hosts all of 2023's Float Fly's, a founding member of the Morning Flyers, he's a very knowledgeable individual about RC and Omahawks history and dealings with the City Parks.

The 2023 Holiday Party

Pictures provided by Grant S

The Annual Holiday Party was held at Farmer Browns in Waterloo, on Dec 1st, with approximately 50 Club Members and/or guests in attendance. The banquet room was quite large handling almost double last year's seating capacity.

Hawk Talk

Unfortunately, Luke had to man handle a large screen TV which was used for the slide show and other presentations.

Food was good although many spoke about the last-minute changes in the menu selections, service was good and a good time was had by all.

Kevin made a presentation of available Club Jackets that are mentioned above in this newsletter, I believe a couple were ordered by members at the event.



Cindy and Paul leaving the party leftovers and a Poinsettia

Hawk Talk



Doug was awarded Volunteer of the Year



Luke giving his presentation thanking everyone for their support

Omahawks Business Meeting November Minutes

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom Link:

Club Officers:

- President - Luke Hughes
- VP - Grant Schulte
- Secretary - Rick Sessions
- Treasurer - Kevin Hyde

Board

- Shaun Brothers
- Jim Henley
- John Petersen
- Richard Gibson
- Paul Edmunds

Field Chairman

- Cole Meyo

Guests: Hague Howey

Officer/Chairman/Editor Reports:

Treasurer Report: *(Kevin)* Reviewed financials.

Membership Count: 40 for 2024 thus far

Newsletter Report: *Editors - Joe/Grant, Safety - Jim Boomsma, Training 'Sessions' - Rick Sessions, 'Julian's Journal', 'Kevin's Corner'*

Old Business:

Field Improvements:

Discussion on new procedures to track cleaning of toilet by Abe's. (see below)

Weather station - Table discussion of hardware until Feb '24.

Need to push Parks for help on parking lot draining issues.

Stairways need attention: both south and north.

Metal sign brackets near gate: cut off?

Marketing ideas: Ideas for next season? Officers to discuss focus for 2024.

Hawk Talk

Tom Floyd Memorial Fund: Still have 2 planes to sell (Piper 91 twin, Dallaire old-timer). Call Rick S. with questions.

Other nitro donations: T-28 balsa 60 size, CG Protégé 60 (high wing Tiger 2) and SIG mid wing trainer 40 size.

FRIA Status and AMA: Follow AMA suggestions, or comply by March 16, 2024

Training Night: Rick/Luke to finalize for 2024. Thanks to all with input and suggestions.

New Business:

Abe's Portables: 11/10 call w/Avery (new owner), winterized soon. Next season, service date/signature (back of door) each stop.

T-Shirts, Polos & Jackets: Luke/Kevin - Luke shopping best materials/pricing. Kevin - Has Carhartt embroidered jackets to try on; get on his 'list' by 12/4.

Holiday Dinner: Luke has agenda including thanks to '23 officers and efforts by all making the year a success. Announcement of '24 officers, incl. Grant/Shawn, returning/new board members. Awards. Rick/Dan Photo slides and table decorations.

Hague has a surprise "special award". (It was for a "trophy wife": Cindy Edmunds!)

Other: Google drive, docs, sheets use for 2024 Events, committee organization, other ideas '24 officer offer

Note: concern with the new fence, a bit rough and a sliver concern. Luke to sand as needed.

Shawn went to elementary school and 30%+ had heard about Omahawks or been to field. Gave a demo to 75+ kids. Great outreach!

Consider multi year memberships for 2025 and beyond.

Youth membership discussion. Stay as current, be aware of any financial needs.

Add Membership below.

Hague: Connection to Girls and Boys Inc.: low-cost R/C, use of simulators, mentors/summer camp (4 days in June/July at Hawk Field)

New Weekly Fun Fly Day (name TBD): Post Sunday based on wind/weather. In ADDITION to Thursday training night.

Upcoming events: Holiday Dinner - Friday December 1, Farmer Browns, Waterloo @ 7 p.m. - Rick has RSVP list

Hawk Talk

Dec 19th @ 7 pm- Final Board Meeting '24

Jan 1st @ 9am - First Flight 2024, breakfast @ Hy-Vee after to thaw out.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55pm --Motion by: Kevin Seconded by: Jim

2024 Committees & focus

Technical

- Website & Photos
- Field cam
- Weather station

Hawk Field Maintenance and Improvement

- General maintenance & upkeep
- Improvement projects, funding & execution
- Parks & Rec communication

Marketing

- Social media - Club & cross posts w/AMA & Other partners
- Newsletter - Content & Publication
- Partner relations - AMA, StemAHA, EAA
- Club attire, publications, signage, etc.
- Outside event planning (Elementary, Champions, StemAHA, other)

Safety

- First aid, AED, other supplies upkeep
- Training on basic first aid
- Field signage

Membership

- Retention

Omahawks Member Meeting November Minutes

November 17, 2023, 7:00pm @ Oakview

Snacks, Fun, Fellowship, Learning

Hawk Talk

Membership Count: 190 (37 for 2024)

Renew your membership for next year. Want to have an annual auto renew? Check out Alert on website.

Field Improvements:

Eagle Scout project: Joel Wallace fixed/replaced the wooden rail fencing on 11/4. Looks great!

Tom Floyd Memorial Fund has been established to support kids in the sport! Call Rick S. with questions about his planes for sale. (You can see the airplanes at Oakview.)

Recent Nitro donations: see pictures on website:

<https://photo.omahawks.org/Classics-for-Sale/> (Cirrus, Uproar and biplane have been sold.)

New Business:

Membership Renewals: Kevin encourages members to renew by the end of the year if they can. Please also consider the auto-renewal option available on the website. It helps Kevin and the club with processing applications and ensures that everyone is up-to-date and ready to go with a valid membership when the new flying season begins.

2024 Events/Priorities: TBD What events do members want to do?

Status of Float Flies: Flanagan Lake near Bennington (Fort and 168th) will be our Lake of choice next year until Standing Bear Lake is re-filled and open. This year's Flanagan Float Flies were a lot of fun, we had a lot of passers-by come watch. We'll plan at least 2-3 next year.

FRIA Status and AMA: Remote ID rules have been postponed until March 16, 2024. We have been denied FRIA status by FAA. We continue to work thru AMA but its

Hawk Talk

looking like we will not get FRIA status. Remote I.D.'s would be mandated by the FAA.

Training Night: All done for this year! A huge success. A **safety task force has been formed and met in late October. TF members: Hague, Rick, Luke, Jim B. & Jim H.** We're planning to streamline a few things, going to focus on members who want training or help in a specific area. If you have input, ideas, concerns, contact one of the task force members. Watch for information by early Spring.

T-Shirts and Polos: Luke is planning to place another order, will be checking with members to see what people want to get. We're thinking about t-shirts, polos, magnets, hats, etc., and maybe stickers. Kevin has found a company that will embroider Carhartt jackets with the Omahawks logo on the back and an optional member name and logo on front. Prices range from \$200-225 depending on what features you choose. These are high-quality jackets that will last for years, possibly decades. Kevin hopes to place a bulk order sometime after Thanksgiving, possibly early December. You can see them on the Buy/Sell/Trade area of the club website.

Christmas Dinner: Farmer Brown's is our new venue with up to 80 capacity. (We have reservation for 12/1 at 6pm.) Contact Rick for reservations.

Watch for interested teens to build and fly with experienced members.

Who is interested in a weekly winter build? Contact Jim Henley.

Officer nominations to be finalized.

Officer and Board member voting. Nominations are still open until our meeting on the 17th. Do you have a nominee for any of the positions? Check out our website for the current nominees. You will be able to vote online starting 11/18, just need to log in or call Kevin. **Nominations are now closed and voting is open.**

Here are current nominations: President: Grant Schulte, V.P.: Shaun Brothers, Sec: Rick Sessions, Treasurer: Kevin Hyde, Board: Jim Boomsma, Jim Henley, Patrick Jones, Dan Fitzgerald, John Peterson, Doug Sandberg, Luke Hughes

Vote online or call Kevin to record your vote.

Hawk Talk

Kevin made one last call for nominations. Seeing none, the ballot stands as-is. If you are interested in an officer or board position in the future and want to learn more, ask around or attend a board meeting. All are welcome!

AED: Jim Boomsma said he has removed the AED from the shed from the winter but will reinstall it for the next flying season.

Flying on Saturday: We're expecting amazing weather at the field on Saturday. Luke encouraged members to come out for what may be the last great flying day of the year. (We did have awesome weather and good turnout all day).

Sad News: Bud Mitchell passed away. A big loss for our club. Cole is having a plaque made to honor him at the field. Many of Bud's planes will be for sale on Dec. 2 in Council Bluffs (1414 Broadway).

Upcoming events:

December 1: Holiday Party at Farmer Brown's, 6pm. RSVP to Rick S. at rickbsessions@gmail.com or 402-312-6482

SHOW AND TELL:

JIM HENLEY showed the new landing gear he ordered for his biplane. He waited months to get it and plans to install it soon. The plane is a 33 percent scale AMR Waco. It weighs 75 pounds and has a 10-foot wingspan. There's a picture on the rotating banner of our website. The engine is a 215-cc, 5-cylinder Moki radial engine. Jim hopes to have it ready for next season!

RICHARD GIBSON brought a slick little Eflite micro helicopter and flew it for the members. It's stable, affordable, and available at HobbyTown. Richard says it's easy to fly as long as you understand a helicopter's dynamics, and small models

Hawk Talk

are a great way to start. It's great for indoor flying, but can be flown outdoors as well in calm conditions. Richard says he'd be glad to help members with helicopter flying.

MARV GOLDBERG showed off his first "big boy" radio, a Spektrum DX6i. He's excited to try it but needs some help setting it up.

DEAN COPELAND shared a harrowing story about a large, scale P-47 crash this summer that sent him to the hospital. Dean was flying his P-47 model at the Western Flyers field in Mead when the plane veered off course on takeoff and hit him, cutting his arm badly. A Western Flyers member who was a Marine helped wrap his arm while others called for help. When Dean arrived at Bergan Mercy's trauma center in Omaha, there were 30-some doctors and nurses waiting for him. As Dean was rolled into the hospital, he looked up at the group and said, "What a hell of a party this is going to be."

Fortunately, the doctors got to work right away and fixed him up. Dean has healed nicely with help from stem cells he was receiving, and now he's working to fix the P-47. He should have it flying again before too much longer.

DAVE SPARGO shared a story about flying his Delta Wing flyer at the Labor Day Air Show. The plane was a huge hit with the crowd when it dropped plastic soldiers with parachutes over the field. There are a few really cool photos on the club website, in the Labor Day 2023 photo album.

RAFFLE: Always exciting. President and Vice President candidates Grant and Shaun both won prizes. Questions were raised about whether the drawing was rigged.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:43 p.m. Motion by: Grant Seconded
by: Luke

Field Projects:

- ~~1. Parking lot stones. (Luke did some nice grading, moved loose stones back into parking lot.) THANKS LUKE!~~
2. Water run off issues.
3. Shingles on peak of pavilion and old shed.
- ~~4. Paint bleachers and benches. Stain where needed. (8/31 @ 9am-11am)~~
DONE
- ~~5. Wood fence rail repair. (Eagle Scout project.)~~
6. Urinal in shed.

Volunteer Areas:

1. 2024 Events: leaders and helpers
2. Training night: Pilots, Spotters, Simulator operator, mechanics, electronic specialists (contact Rick S.)

Featured Articles

Omahawks RC Club Jackets for sale

I have been approached by many members wanting to purchase an Omahawks Jacket with the logo on the back.

Hawk Talk

Well, It's time! I've been working with Omaha Print Shop in Elkhorn to get some made. I have selected a medium weight Carhart jacket. The cost will be \$200 for the jacket with the Omahawks emblem on the back as shown below. There is also an option to add your name to the front right for \$10 and/or Omahawks emblem on the front left for an additional \$15.

I have sample jackets in Large, X Large and XX Large. Other sizes are available, but I don't have samples. If you want to try one on or just check out the jacket, I'll have them at the November Members meeting.

If you want one let me know and I'll add you to the order. All orders must be paid for before the order goes to the print shop. I can accept cash, check, credit card, Venmo or PayPal. Let me know at the time of order how you want to pay, and we can make it happen.

I plan to place the order in December so don't wait too long.

Kevin Hyde

Hawk Talk



Automatic Membership Renewal Now available till the end of the year

I know, this was available last year. Well, our wonderful web developer made it even easier to sign up. When you renew your membership, you will see this page:

Pay For Your Membership with PayPal


Click here to pay

automatically renew my membership each year 

see instructions below if paying by cash or check

Hawk Talk

Simply click on check box (red arrow), then the PayPal button and proceed to the PayPal payment page. Once the payment information is entered you will be renewed for the year and registered for automatically payment each year. As usual, you don't need to have a PayPal account. Just click on the pay with debit or credit card. You can also cancel anytime, just contact the treasurer. **This check box is only available through December 31 so don't wait!**

Article Submitted by Kevin Hyde, Club Treasurer for past 25 years.

FRIA application denied by FAA - Twice

As most of you know, the FAA has been working on reviewing applications for FAA-Recognized Identification Areas (FRIA).

On Friday, August 25 the Omahawks received word that our FRIA application had been denied by the FAA. Below is the wording of that notification.

The status for your FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA) application 2023-CBO-00730-FRIA - Omahawks R/C Inc #4736 - Hawk Field has been updated.

FRIA Application Status: Denied

Reason/Justification: This application is denied for the following reason: The request submitted encompasses areas where the public may gather or regularly transit such as public buildings, roads, and parking areas, and may pose a risk to persons and property on the ground [14 CFR § 89.215(c), AC 89-3 Section 7.4].

What does that mean to Omahawks members?

If the FRIA had been approved, it would mean that a Remote ID would not be required while flying within the pre-defined area approved by the FAA. This area was presented to the FAA based on our standard flying practices and included an area that extended over the Standing Bear Trail. We believe that is what caused the FAA to deny the application.

Hawk Talk

The FAA denying the application means that, under the Code of Federal Regulations, 14 CFR Part 89, after September 16, 2023, anyone flying an unmanned aircraft (including fixed wing, Rotor or drone) not in an authorized FRIA, must have a Remote ID device installed that would transmit the required information.

The Omahawks board members have reviewed the situation and agree that compliance with this law (Yes Code of Federal Regulations means it is a federal law) is up to the individual Pilot and will not be policed by the board members or the membership. It is our opinion that enforcement by the FAA will be challenging based on the late notification of the FRIA application denial and the lack of availability of the Remote ID devices. In addition, based on the status of the FAA reviews of FRIA applications it seems likely that the FAA will delay the enforcement date with a grace period beyond 9/16/23. (Of 1700 applications, 700 approved, 200 denied, 800 in que as of 8/30/23)

It is a fact that Remote ID (RID) devices are currently being developed by several manufacturers but may be in limited supply. For instance, Spektrum is advertising the SkyID available from Horizon Hobby for \$70 available for order on 8/25/23. The availability of this device is unknown at this time. Other RID's are reportedly available. The price varies from \$70-\$300 based on our research.

The Omahawks Board is currently in conversation with the AMA and AMA with the FAA to determine if the FRIA application can be revised or appealed to get the FRIA approved but this will take some time to sort out. In the meantime, continue to operate your aircraft in a safe manner and in compliance with the current AMA rules and Hawk Field Rules.

On the positive side,

1. Whether you have an RID in your plane or not will have no impact on the safety of the pilot, the aircraft, the field or the public. The club flies under the rigorous safety rules established by the AMA and reflected in the Hawk Field Rules.

Hawk Talk

2. This development will not affect the Labor Day Airshow because it occurs before the September 16 implementation date.
3. We all know that the price and availability of the RID devices will change dramatically (likely downward) over the next year as availability and technology develops.

I hope this information helps you understand the current situation. As more information becomes available the membership will be notified by email or in the newsletter.

Julian's Junior Journal - December

There will be no submission this month,
Julian will be picking up in Jan 2024!

Care and Feeding of Lipo Batteries

Whether your new to the RC Hobby or an old hand, you'll find out there is always something that you can learn about the handling, charging, storage and disposal of the all-important Lithium Polymer (AKA "LiPo").

Lipo batteries are a type of battery now used in many consumer electronics devices.

They have been gaining in popularity in the radio control industry over the last few years and are now the most

popular choice for anyone looking for long run times and high power.

There is always someone at the Club field who has an interesting story about there favorite LIPO battery type, or the end of life of one; but I am no expert in this area.

While researching this topic I stumbled across a very complete web site with a lot of comprehensive information on the subject. Follow the link below to get the pertinent information.

<https://www.rogershobbycenter.com/lipoguide>



**A Swelled, or Puffed, LiPo
Danger, Danger, Will Robinson!**

Notice to all Omahawks Members!

The Omahawks Field Gate lock will be replaced during the 2024-member season.

On January 1 a new lock will be installed, interlocked with the current/old lock. Both old and new keys will be able to open the gate. Please re-lock the lock to prevent it

Hawk Talk

from being removed without a key. On March 31 the old lock will be removed and only those members with a new key will be able to open the gate.

A new 2024 key will be available to all current 2024 members in trade with the old key. New keys will be available at all club functions, including the first to fly on January 1 (bring your old key to get a new one). Old keys will be re-cut to fit the new lock and assigned to another member. We will also be able to take your membership renewal by check or credit card on January 1.

If you have questions or need a new key contact Cole Mayo or a club officer.

Kevin Hyde

2024 Build Sessions

Below is a message from Jim Henley about some build sessions he's planning early next year at Oakview. A great opportunity if you're looking to learn more about building/repair work or you just need a hand with a project. Details below. When Jim says they'll have some of the best builders in the club on hand, he isn't kidding -- he's one of them!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!! Your Club's Executive Board

We will have a Thursday build session beginning at the Oakview location on **January 11, 2024 running until the start of training season**. We are looking for membership input on the time we should schedule since some are not comfortable driving at night and the mall closes at 7:00 PM. An afternoon schedule is certainly workable.

We will have a couple of club trainers that we will be working on, however if you have a project, you need assistance feel free to bring it in, we will have some of the best builders in the club on hand.

Hawk Talk

Please contact Jim Henley jhandmehenley@cox.net with your input.

Coming up, Big Family Event:

Our Mid-Year Stem Expo at the **Oak View Mall / Saturday, February 17, 2024/ 11:00am - 3:00pm**. Many hands-on activities, professionals in numerous fields, all wanting to share what excites them.

<https://shareomaha.org/nonprofit/aviation-stemaha>

Take a couple of hours and help your kids discover an exciting world beyond their game consoles.

Hague Howey

President, Co-Founder

Aviation stemAHA

Upcoming Events

**** Breakfast get-together every Tuesday Morning @ Hy-Vee, 10808 Fort St, Omaha**

Hawk Talk

Every Thursday --10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Indoor Flying @ Community of Christ Church GYM, 140 Kanessville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503.

For further information email Kevin: ulavenger@yahoo.com Cost for the session is \$5.00 includes Coffee and a Donut.

Come fly, or **drive you're RC Car/ Truck** in the gym with us where the weather is always perfect every Thursday!

Omahawks Board Meeting, 7 PM Tuesday, January 16th, @ Zoom call, meeting at 7 PM to 8 PM.

Omahawks Member Meeting, 7 PM Friday, January 26th, @ Oakview Mall, meeting at 7 PM to 9 PM.

For a complete list of all the Omaha Metro Area upcoming events please follow this link: http://www.metrorcflying.com/metro_schedule.htm